

**The Graduate Student Assembly  
The University of Texas at Austin**

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**Resolution:** G.R. 18 (S) 9 – In Support of Gender Pronouns, Alternate Names, and Name Pronunciation Options on UT Direct and CLIPs

**WHEREAS** (1): The University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin) has a number of online technical services through UT Direct that allow students to manage their tuition payments, class registration, and personal information. CLIPs, or Class Information Pages, are a service of the Office of the Registrar which provides allows faculty and assistants with information needed to manage classes, such as class rosters and photos of students. However, CLIPs retrieves information from UT Direct, which does not have options for gender pronouns, alternate names, or name pronunciation on its class rosters for instructors<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** (2): 10.1% of the UT Austin student population is comprised of international students.<sup>2</sup> Many international students as well as U.S. citizens frequently have to offer pronunciation information or use alternate names for ease of communicating with instructors and classmates; and,

**WHEREAS** (3): As of 2016, the state of Texas had the fifth largest percentage of transgender people in the United States, with 0.66% of the adult population (125,000) identifying as transgender.<sup>3</sup> Information is not available on the transgender student population at UT Austin, but the Gender and Sexuality Center (GSC) provides services and resources currently being utilized by LGBTQA students<sup>4</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS** (4): Transgender students who have not legally changed their name can be outed to the student body when an instructor reads from the class roster<sup>5</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS** (5): The Campus Climate Response Team has received 25 gender bias incident reports so far in the 2017-2018 academic year<sup>6</sup>; and

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<sup>1</sup> CLIPs Class Info Pages. Office of the Registrar. Accessed 15 April 2018. <https://registrar.utexas.edu/staff/clips>

<sup>2</sup> Facts and Figures. University of Texas at Austin. Accessed April 9, 2018. <https://www.utexas.edu/about/facts-and-figures>

<sup>3</sup> Hennie, M. "Trans population in Texas second largest." Project Q Houston. June 30 2016. [http://www.projectq.us/houston/trans\\_population\\_in\\_texas\\_second\\_biggest\\_in\\_u.s](http://www.projectq.us/houston/trans_population_in_texas_second_biggest_in_u.s)

<sup>4</sup> Gender and Sexuality Center. Accessed 15 April 2018. <http://diversity.utexas.edu/genderandsexuality/>

<sup>5</sup> Jarrar, S. "UT transgender students face campus, social challenges." The Daily Texan. 2 Dec 2015. <http://www.dailytexanonline.com/2015/12/02/ut-transgender-students-face-campus-social-challenges>

<sup>6</sup> "Campus Climate Response Team Reports." Accessed 16 April 2018. <http://diversity.utexas.edu/ccrt/campus-climate-response-team-ccrt-reports/>

**WHEREAS (5):** The Campus Climate Response Team has received 11 national origin bias incident reports so far in the 2017-2018 academic year<sup>7</sup>; and

**WHEREAS (6):** The University of Texas at Austin Hate and Bias Policy states, “The University is committed to an academic and work environment free from acts of intolerance, hate, bias, or prejudice based on an individual’s race, color, religion, national origin, gender, gender identity or gender expression, age, disability, citizenship, veteran status, sexual orientation, ideology, political views, or political affiliation.”<sup>8</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS (7):** There is already a method of formally changing names and pronouns on University documents, but it takes time to process.<sup>9,10</sup> Offering pronouns and name pronunciation options on UT Direct would allow students to input their preferred form of address in class rosters without waiting for a legal name change that would be required for any official documents from the Office of the Registrar; and,

**WHEREAS (8):** The options for alternate names and pronunciations can also be easily used by cisgender students with nicknames or non-phonetic last names to save time in class and more easily be responded to by classmates and professors; now,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT (1):** The Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) calls upon the Office of the Registrar to add optional “Pronouns,” “Alternate Name,” and “Name Pronunciation” fields for students to fill out as part of their profile on UT Direct for CLIPs use; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT (2):** Following the alternate name field, there will be two check boxes for the student to indicate whether the alternate name should be used for verbal interactions, written documents, or both. If both are selected, the legal name will not be presented on CLIPs; and,

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT (3):** Copies of this bill be sent to Brenda Schumann (Deputy University Registrar at the Office of the Registrar), the Counselling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Gender and Sexuality Center, International Student and Scholars Services, and *The Daily Texan*.

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> “Handbook of Operating Procedures 9-1810. Hate and Bias Incidents.” University of Texas at Austin Policy Office. 8 March 2017. <https://policies.utexas.edu/policies/hate-and-bias-incidents>

<sup>9</sup> Kintner, S. “New policy will allow transgender students to list their preferred name on University records.” *The Daily Texan*. 16 April 2012. <http://www.dailytexanonline.com/news/2012/04/16/new-policy-will-allow-transgender-students-to-list-their-preferred-name-on>

<sup>10</sup> Jarrar, S. “UT transgender students face campus, social challenges.” *The Daily Texan*. 2 Dec 2015. <http://www.dailytexanonline.com/2015/12/02/ut-transgender-students-face-campus-social-challenges>

Signature of the GSA President

Matthew J. Lewis